

Spanish minister holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana arrived in Cairo Sunday and discussed with Egyptian officials the issue of Palestinian evictions and its effect on the Middle East peace process. Mr. Solana, who flew in from Damascus, met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Arab League Secretary-General Esmael Abdal Meguid at Cairo international airport immediately after his arrival. Dr. Abdul Meguid left for France after the talks to discuss Arab issues with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. "The visit (by Solana) is to continue consultations and to discuss the effect of the deportee crisis on the peace process," Mr. Musa told reporters after the meeting. Mr. Solana said that he supports the implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions, including those against Israel and Syria. Mr. Solana is on a Middle East tour that has already taken him to Jordan and Syria. Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians was one of the main topics he discussed with officials during his trip. He has said that the expulsions are illegal and a bad mistake.

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Turkish journalist killed by carbomb

ANKARA (AP) — A carbomb on Sunday killed a left-wing Turkish columnist known for his investigation of the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope Paul II as well as for his criticism of Islamic fundamentalism and Kurdish separatism. Ugur Mumcu, 50, was killed by the bomb when he started his car around 1:15 p.m. (1115 GMT) outside his apartment in a high-class residential district. Mr. Mumcu, a columnist for the Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet, was outspoken against Islamic fundamentalism and Kurdish separatism and was an expert on terrorism. The "Islamic Salvation" claimed responsibility. It was the first time such a group, described as fundamentalist, had been heard of. Mr. Mumcu, a vigorous defender of secularism in Turkey, had reported receiving death threats from extremist Islamic groups. While 99 per cent of Turkey's 57 million people are Muslim, the state is officially secular. Fundamentalist groups, clamouring for an Islamic state, have become more influential. Mr. Mumcu gained fame with his books on the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in Vatican City's St. Peter's Square in May.

Prince Hassan returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Sunday after visits to the United States, London and Germany. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Royal family members and senior officials received the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath upon arrival.

Qadhafi leaves Egypt after 1-week visit

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, Sunday ended a week of talks with President Hosni Mubarak on Arab and international issues and departed for Libya. Information Minister Saif Al Sherif told reporters Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qadhafi held a final session Sunday morning, along with ministers from both countries. Mr. Sherif said that the two leaders vowed to increase cooperation between their people in all fields.

PLO official confirms threats

PARIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organization's representative in France confirmed receiving threats but denied in an interview published Sunday that he fled France to escape assassination by Hamas, a hardline group of Muslim fundamentalist Palestinians. Ibrahim Souss, the PLO's long-time representative to Paris, denied reports by the press and the French foreign ministry last Wednesday that he had left the country. In a interview with the weekly *Le Journal du Dimanche*, Mr. Souss was quoted as saying that he was notified French authorities about 10 days ago "of my worries and of threats against me." The authorities "did everything to assure my security," Mr. Souss was quoted as saying. "On the other hand, I never accused Hamas. These are fairy tales." The conservative daily *Le Figaro* had cited confidential sources as saying that Mr. Souss was being hunted by a Hamas assassination team traveling on U.S. passports. Foreign ministry officials refused to confirm the report but said that Mr. Souss had left the country on an ordinary trip.

French officials unhurt in attack in Somalia

DJIBOUTI (AP) — Three French officials visiting the breakaway northern part of Somalia reported Sunday that they escaped unarmed from an attack by gunmen at Burao, a major town. The incident took place during an official visit last week to Somaliland, which declared independence from Somalia during the civil war and famine that have left 300,000 people dead since 1991. Somaliland is not recognised by any foreign country. The officials, representing France's humanitarian action ministry and embassy in neighbouring Djibouti, said that they came under gunfire by a group of armed men on their way to the Burao airport. The gunmen, apparently bandits, stopped the vehicle but eventually allowed the French officials to leave for the airport, where they were flown by a Red Cross plane to Djibouti.

Iran has 'few political prisoners'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's prosecutor-general, Aholfazl Musavi-Tabrizi, said Sunday his country had few political prisoners and that 70 per cent of all prisoners were jailed for drug crimes, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast quoted Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi as saying at a news conference that "very few" detainees had been jailed for their links with "groupies or anti-revolutionary elements." In Iran's revolutionary parlance, that refers to members of the outlawed Iraq-based Iranian opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, or anyone in opposition to Iran's Islamic government. The Mujahedeen said in a statement faxed to the Associated Press from Paris that Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi was trying to "evade the international repercussions of extensive street arrests by the regime." The statement said there had been a "dramatic increase" in the number of political prisoners in Iran.

Iraq denies firing at U.S. planes, signals impatience

Aspin: Too early to say if Baghdad violated own truce

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ DENIED Sunday that its anti-aircraft batteries fired a day earlier on U.S. warplanes and insisted its "ceasefire" remained in force.

U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin said the incident was not proof Iraq was not adhering to its own ceasefire, declared on the eve of Mr. Clinton's inauguration last Wednesday as a goodwill gesture.

"I think it's a little soon to determine what's going on here since the Clinton administration took office. I think we're going to wait a couple of days to make sure," the new U.S. defense chief said in a television interview.

Mr. Aspin, who took over his post last week when Mr. Clinton took office, said, however, there was some indication Iraq was moving anti-aircraft missiles back into the southern "no-fly" zone but this had not been confirmed.

"There is some indication," Mr. Aspin said in an interview on the CBS "Face the Nation" programme, but he gave no details.

A U.S. navy jet bombed a radar site in southern Iraq on Saturday after Iraqi radar allegedly attempted to "lock on" to the jet while it was on patrol. U.S. military officials said they believed the plane had been fired on from the ground.

Iraq denied its air defences in the south opened fire on any U.S.

planes Saturday and said it remained committed to its ceasefire declaration.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday's U.S. attack and two earlier attacks in the north had been unprovoked.

Mr. Aspin said the incident was not proof Iraq was not adhering to its own ceasefire, declared on the eve of Mr. Clinton's inauguration last Wednesday as a goodwill gesture.

"I mean there's some evidence the pilot who thought he was being fired on, and indeed fired, made the judgement that something was happening that threatened him and so he went after it," he said.

A spokesman for the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said on Saturday: "We have made clear that our pilots are going to defend themselves when threatened."

U.S. officials say their planes retaliated after Iraqi air defences locked radars onto or fired on U.S. planes policing the "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq.

Asked if Iraq was teasing the United States and violating its own ceasefire, Mr. Aspin said: "Your interpretation may be correct but I think we need to wait and see a little bit."

The spokesman did not clarify which U.S. attack he was referring to, but said he was commenting on unspecified Pentagon

statements made Jan. 20, or Wednesday. There was a U.S. attack on northern targets the day before, Tuesday.

There was no immediate U.S. reaction to the claim.

The report quoted the political editor of the news agency as saying: "We confronted these provocations and aggressive acts by controlling our nerves."

In an interview with the U.S. CNN television network, Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi called for "pragmatic, businesslike discussion" with the United States.

He said the three recent U.S. attacks were "minor ones, and we are committed to the ceasefire." If they continued, the two countries could be in for a "difficult clash."

Nouri Al Marsoumi, a senior undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture and Information, writing in the *Babel* newspaper hinted that Iraq could not wait for ever for the U.S. to respond to its overtures.

"If we want to turn this opportunity to our advantage we have to view the ceasefire as one chapter in our whole struggle," he wrote.

"In the end, we have to choose the appropriate time to wage the war in the light of the international situation and the practical and tangible attitudes of the new administration."

Babel often floats ideas that never appear in the state-run newspapers.

In another development, a senior Iraqi military official asserted that the Jan. 17 American cruise missile strike on the downtown Al Rashid hotel was deliberate, not accidental as the Pentagon has said. Iraq said two civilians were killed.

Sunday's statement was the third denial of hostile action in the "no-fly" zones.

The Iraqi statement suggested the West was fabricating its reports but did not give a clue what the motive might be.

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In its latest incident Saturday night, three aircraft — one A-6 intruder and two FA-18 fighters — were flying a routine nighttime patrol over the southern air exclusion zone, Pentagon officials said.

According to the officials, the Iraqis fired flares, anti-aircraft agility and directed search radar at the warplanes.

Defense department spokesman Michael Dohle said the A-6 dropped a 450-kilogramme laser-guided bomb in response. There was no immediate assessment of damage.

(Continued on page 5)



A Palestinian refugee who was among the 17 who were flown to Haifa Saturday is assisted by a Red Cross official and met by Israeli military police as he steps out of a British helicopter which flew him from South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Expelled Palestinians say Israel must back down

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian expellees at a freezing camp in South Lebanon said Sunday they were heartened by Israel allowing home to 17 of their colleagues and it should now back down on the expulsion order.

The head of the 396 evictees said Israel had shown it was reversal of the expulsion orders," Dr. Rantisi added.

"Israel must now announce this and take back all of the evictees in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 759."

Dr. Rantisi, who is Israel says was a leading member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, said any high court decision would be directed by politics instead of justice.

Some believe Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will use the high court to reverse the expulsion to block the threat of unprecedented U.N. sanctions against Israel.

In the largest transfer of evictees since they were expelled on Dec. 17, four sick men and 13 of whom Israel said were expelled in error were evacuated to Haifa Saturday.

In a Red Cross operation, three British military helicopters flew the 17. The Israeli army took the sick to a hospital in its "security zone" in South Lebanon and detained the rest.

"By allowing the Red Cross to pass over its borders, Israel sent a clear message to the world that it had backed down from the expulsion decision," Dr. Rantisi said at the evictees' camp.

"By this evacuation Israel has declared it is responsible for the health, safety and well-being of all the expellees. This is a clear

soon. The food is steadily getting worse," he added. The group received bread and lentil soup, said on mules over mountains to the camp overnight.

The head of the Red Cross team that organised the evacuation Saturday said the four sick evictees would be taken to a hospital in Israel and not in the security zone."

Some of the sick said they wanted to be evacuated as if they went to a hospital in Israel they would be nearer their homes in the occupied territories and could be visited by their families.

Israeli troops barred journalists from seeing the four sick men in a hospital in the town of Marjayoun, where they joined an evictee who was evacuated by U.N. helicopter two weeks ago.

Most of the 13 returned Saturday were bundled off to a desert detention camp in southern Israel. The rest, including two men to be released after questioning, were jailed.

In Damascus, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri had talks with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi on Sunday.

The official Syrian news agency (SANA) said both stressed the "necessity of the implementation of the international legitimacy to return the expellees to their homes."

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IN SEARCH OF REFUGE: A Bosnian family belonging, abandoning its home in Serb-held Bosnia territory to escape fighting (see story on page 8) (AFP photo)

House defers debate on civil service upon Cabinet request

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday put off till next week what one deputy expected to be heated "exchange of views" between the House and the government on civil service employment.

The postponement came at the request of the government, which asked for more time to gather information from ministries and other public agencies on employment of job seekers.

According to the officials, the Iraqis fired flares, anti-aircraft agility and directed search radar at the warplanes.

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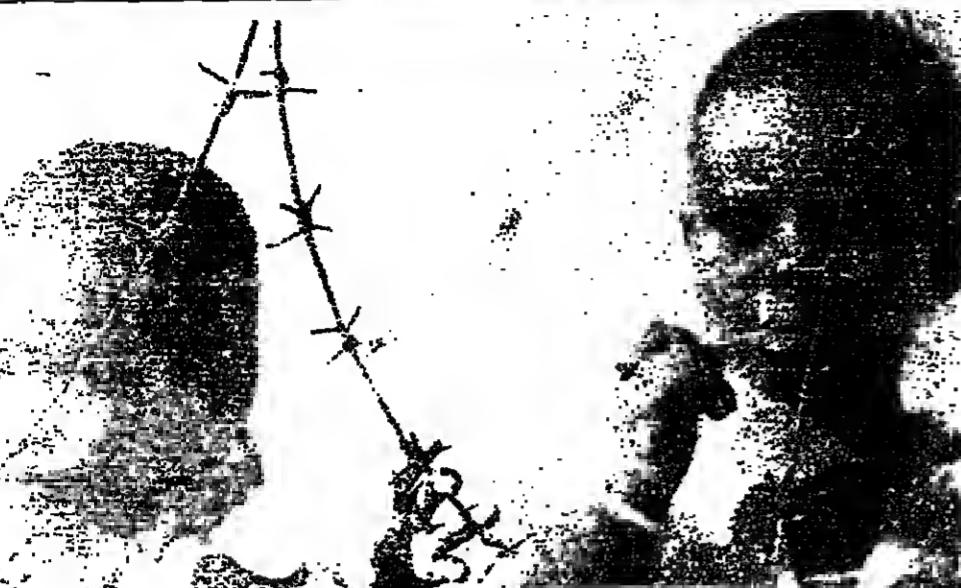
names and graduation dates of all citizens hired by government agencies and public companies in the last three years.

Citing procedural irregularities, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouran Al Hindawi said the government was not infallible and might have made mistakes in awarding job opportunities to the job seekers.

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Two Somali children hold onto the barbed wire of Mogadishu's "green line" as they watch the movements of the allied forces (AFP photo).

Relief officials seek American military protection in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Relief officials said they asked the U.S. military Saturday for more protection after a series of attacks on aid workers in the Somalian capital.

Bandits attacked aid workers five times in broad daylight within an hour Friday in north Mogadishu, firing on the vehicles of relief organizations and leaving a Swedish doctor and three Somalian aid workers injured. The vehicle in which the Swede was riding was riddled with eight bullets; gunmen looted another vehicle.

The attacks took place about 250 metres from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which had one of its vehicles shot at, said relief officials. Also targeted were vehicles of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Save the Children, and Swedish relief, a Swedish relief agency which works closely with UNICEF in Somalia.

"We're very concerned about the security situation," said Ian Macleod, a UNICEF spokesman. He said that security in north Mogadishu had not improved since U.S. and other international forces arrived in Somalia on Dec. 9 to restore law and order and rebuild the country from devastating famine and civil war that claimed 350,000 lives last year.

Their mission was to make Somalia safe enough so that relief workers could freely deliver food to the starving and care for the ill.

Meanwhile, the opening round of preliminary talks among Somalia's warring factions to set an agenda for a national reconciliation conference to unite the lawless country broke off abruptly Friday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, amid accusations of ceasefire

violations and the killing of civilians, U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said.

The recent attacks on relief workers could constrain UNICEF aid to 25 feeding centres and 20 medical clinics in the northern Mogadishu area and could curtail vaccination of children, Mr. MacLeod said. UNICEF is the largest relief agency operating in north Mogadishu.

"UNICEF activities will continue in north Mogadishu but it will be increasingly difficult to undertake those if there is not more security provided," he said.

Army Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Ritter, a U.S. military spokesman, said he was unaware of the UNICEF request for more security. "We continue patrolling the area, sending as many as 30 patrols out everyday," he said.

"It's a lot safer environment than when the Marines landed 45 days ago," Col. Ritter maintained. "I can say that unequivocally. There are a lot fewer guns on the street and incidents of gunfire."

The northern half of Mogadishu is controlled by forces loyal to Ali Mahdi Mohammad. The southern half is held by perhaps the country's most powerful figure, Mohammad Farrah Aideed. The two warlords have been fighting for two years but attended a public reconciliation last month under U.S. pressure.

They were among representatives of 14 factions who signed a ceasefire and disarmament agreement Jan. 8 that called for a national reconciliation conference on March 15.

An ad hoc committee had opened talks last Friday to determine the criteria for participation and the agenda of the conference. But the discussions were aborted

when one faction accused another of launching attacks on two villages in central Somalia shortly after the ceasefire was signed.

Col. Serge Labbe, commander of the Canadian joint forces in Somalia, said that a squadron of 80 Canadian troops had been sent to the village of Mataban and that the situation there was calm.

Col. Labbe said there had been civilian casualties but did not have specific numbers.

Mr. Mawlawi said the United Nations was investigating the accusations. A second round of talks scheduled to be held in Mogadishu Tuesday was up in the air, he said.

In other developments:

Military spokesman reported that bandits trying to extort money from refugees living in the National University of Somalia compound exchanged fire with U.S. military policemen Friday night. No casualties were reported.

A grenade was tossed into a compound in Kisimayu, in southern Somalia. Col. Ritter said a Belgian soldier and two Somalis suffered minor injuries, while Belgian officials in Brussels said that five Belgian paratroopers and four Somali policemen were injured by the explosion near the police station.

Rester adds: Two Somalis were killed in a shootout after gunmen ambushed Belgian troops on night patrol in Kisimayu Sunday, a U.N. official said.

The Belgians, none of whom were injured, were fired upon from a house, spokesman Mawlawi said.

The troops surrounded and stormed the house, killing two Somalis and capturing four.

Algerian military court starts conspiracy trials

Russian nationalist sends anti-U.S. volunteers to Iraq

MOSCOW (R) — A nationalist Russian politician saluted a unit of 10 paramilitary "volunteers" at Moscow airport Sunday, saying they were flying to Iraq to fight America and help forge a new Russian army.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who preaches a gospel of Russian imperial revival, bade a solemn farewell to his men as they boarded an Aeroflot flight to the Middle East at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport.

Bemused travellers looked on as the spectacle unfolded under the glare of television arc lights.

Mr. Zhirinovsky's party seeks restoration of a Russian empire in the boundaries of 1917, including the three Baltic states and Finland. He won 10 per cent at 1991 presidential elections and campaign with boundless energy for influence among the population and in the military.

"We must help Iraq," Mr. Zhirinovsky, dressed in green military-style uniform, told re-

porters at the airport. "I am sending my fighters so they can renew the Russian army. Each new army needs its own war to start with. For us this is Iraq."

The men, mostly in their early 20s, wearing dark blue overalls, black boots, black scarves and purple berets, were hurried quickly through customs formalities to passport control. They were carrying no arms.

Mr. Zhirinovsky sees Kremlin support of the United States-led United Nations sanctions campaign against Iraq as a betrayal of Russian interests. He views the United States as an enemy of Russia bent on humiliating his country and imposing an alien democratic culture.

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KING HONOURS CHINESE ENVOY: His Majesty King Hussein received Sunday at the Royal Court Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang De Liang on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom. King Hussein discussed with the Chinese envoy Jordanian-Chinese relations and ways of enhancing them. His Majesty conferred Al Iktidal Medal of the First Order upon the outgoing ambassador in recognition of his efforts in bolstering bilateral ties (Petra Photo)

AADO endorses Jordan's proposal

AMMAN (J.T.) — A pan-Arab agricultural meeting held in Damascus last week has endorsed a Jordanian proposal for the creation of an Arab common market for the exchange of agricultural products.

Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh headed the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, which was organised by the Arab Agricultural Development Organisation (AADO).

The minister said the Jordanian proposal aims at ensuring the flow of agricultural products and providing protection to national commodities in the face of foreign competition.

He added that the participants decided that Jordan should prepare a memorandum detailing the mechanism for implementation of its proposal and submit it to the AADO secretariat so that the further steps can be taken in that

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif Zaid visits army headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Sunday called at the Armed Forces headquarters, where he met for a while with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb and discussed with him a number of issues of interest to the Armed Forces.

House Judiciary Committee bans Freemasons

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Judiciary Committee Sunday held a meeting chaired by its head, Salim Al Zubi, and endorsed a proposed law banning the Freemasons movement, and a revised law on youth welfare. The law provides for the establishment of a national fund for youth welfare and sports, and for the establishment of a higher council for the youth welfare. The committee also discussed the revised municipal law, and approved an amendment calling for elections for all municipal councils on the same day, including the Greater Amman Municipality. The House's Agricultural Committee also held a meeting chaired by Mohammad Alawne and reviewed its final report on the agricultural situation in Jordan. The committee will pursue its debate of the report Monday in preparation for final endorsement. In another development, the Judiciary Committee discussed the press and publications law. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif.

Prince Ra'ad to grant awards in Salt

SALT (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid Thursday will attend a celebration at the Salt Cultural Centre to mark the centre's silver jubilee. During the celebration, which is being organised by the Salt Youth Centre, Prince Ra'ad will bestow awards on the successive supervisors of the centre, in addition to a number of pioneer workers, and media representatives who played an active role in highlighting the centre's services.

IUGAC sends cable to U.N.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iraqi Universities Graduates Alumni Club (IUGAC) Sunday sent a cable to United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali, condemning the continued U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and calling for a lifting of the embargo on the Iraqi people. The cable said the shelling of Baghdad and the continuing blockade has led to the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children, patients and the elderly. The escalation of hostilities against Iraq and the continuing blockade have no legal foundations, and are in violation of international laws and norms, the cable said. It added that the siege would not have continued had it not been for the umbrella that the U.N. had given to it, by adopting double standards in dealing with regional issues.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- Exhibition entitled "Dhans, a Village from South Jordan" displaying photos and other items on the village at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURES

- Lecture entitled "New Discoveries at the Temple of Zeus in Jerash" by architect Jacques Seigne at the Friends of Archaeology Centre — 7 p.m.
- Lecture entitled "Participatory Data Collection" by Sonnaya Huber and Ebba Augustin of the GTZ's Women in Development Project in Cairo at the Goethe Institute — 6 p.m.

FILM

- French film entitled "Vivement Dimanche" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

Police divulge little on 'Abu Shakoush' arrests; copycat theory suggested

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Security officials remained tight-lipped Sunday over a report that police had nabbed a killer and robber nicknamed "Abu Shakoush" (hammerman). Informed sources suggested that copycat criminals could have been behind a series of attacks attributed to Abu Shakoush.

According to a report in the Arabic-language Al Ra'i newspaper, a 35-year-old man identified by his initials as K.K.M.A., originally from Jaffa in pre-1948 Palestine, was arrested in the Wihdat area by Ashrafiyeh police.

The report said the suspect was carrying a hammer and that upon seeing an approaching police patrol he threw it at another man walking with him. The second man, whom the report identified as Z.M.R. 33, fled the scene and remained at large.

The detained suspect was a resident of the Dababiyeh area of the densely-populated Wihdat suburb.

"Investigations are continuing to establish why the suspect tried to get rid of the hammer upon seeing the police patrol," the report said, without giving further details.

Police sources confirmed that "there were some arrests" in the Wihdat area, but refused to reveal whether any of those detained was suspected of being Abu Shakoush.

"We don't think it was one person who was behind the (six known) attacks," said one of the sources. "It is highly probable that different people carried out the crimes and deliberately left a trail suggesting it was one individual."

The source refused to say whether police had any definite clues to suggest the existence of Abu Shakoush copycats.

"Let us say that we are not convinced that there is a sole individual who could be called Abu Shakoush and be carried out all these attacks," said the source.

Police have stepped up surveil-

lance and patrols, the source said, indirectly affirming that police vigilance had led to the arrest in Al Wihdat.

The last attack attributed to Abu Shakoush occurred in the Wihdat suburb three weeks ago at a paint shop, during the early hours of the day.

Neighbours found the shopowner lying in a pool of blood with heavy injuries to the skull, inflicted with an apparently blunt instrument, possibly a hammer, reports said.

The reports said an unspecified amount of cash and a cheque for JD 1,000 were missing from the shop. The owner was hospitalised with serious head injuries.

It was speculated that the attack could have involved more than one person since the indications were that a sole assailant would have trouble overpowering the heavily-built victim. At least in one previous attack, the victim reported that the assailant was accompanied by an accomplice.

Targets of other attacks attributed to Abu Shakoush, despite police scepticism whether it was a sole assailant, included a building materials shop, a liquor store, a spare parts shop and a supermarket, as well as a pharmacy, where a pharmacist was found killed.

The common features in all the incidents were that all attacks took place during the early hours of the day and all victims were elderly men who were hit in the head with a blunt instrument — presumably a hammer. A medium-size hammer was left behind at the scene of the crime after the attack on the pharmacist.

In addition, only cash carried by the immediate victims of the attacks was robbed, and cash registers were left untouched.

Early police reports based on descriptions supplied by victims suggested that the culprit could be an Egyptian national or someone speaking with an Egyptian accent, dark-skinned and medium-built, wearing a head-dress which could be used to hide his facial features. One victim has described him as "clean-shaven and with a big moustache."

The source refused to say whether police had any definite clues to suggest the existence of Abu Shakoush copycats.

"Let us say that we are not convinced that there is a sole individual who could be called Abu Shakoush and be carried out all these attacks," said the source.

Police have stepped up surveil-

Fourth leftist party licensed

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A leftist group, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP), became the latest party to secure legal status in Jordan after the government took the initiative to settle a raging controversy over rejections of applications for licence filed by leftist parties.

The JPDP was granted licence on Sunday to operate as a political party in Jordan after the group provided a series of clarifications to the Ministry of Interior following meetings with a committee representing the Council of Ministers.

"We have been recognised as a Jordanian political party by the Ministry of Interior," said Tayseer Zibri, secretary-general of the party which had gone to the Higher Court of Justice with an appeal against the ministry's decision in mid-December to turn down its application.

According to party insiders, the main reason for the rejection was what was seen as organic and financial links between the JPDP and the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayef Hawatmeh.

The sources also said that a list of party founding members submitted to the Ministry of Interior also contained the names of at least two people who held temporary two-year Jordanian passports.

Two-year passports are issued to residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank to facilitate their travel. The document does not entitle them to full

citizenship. There was no immediate explanation as to how this problem was tackled by the party before securing a licence.

It was known, however, that the original list had about 130 names, whereas the minimum requirement was only 50. Therefore, the deletion of the two unqualified names could have solved this problem. But this could not be confirmed by independent sources.

The Political Parties Law, which was enacted on Sept. 1, stipulates that no Jordanian group linked in any form or content with an external party will be granted legal status in the Kingdom.

It also states that only Jordanian citizens could join any political party in the Kingdom.

Mr. Zibri said the explanations represented an annex to the JPDP manifesto, submitted earlier to the ministry.

The clarifications, shrouded in legal terms and references to various articles in the Political Parties Law, indicated that the party reaffirmed its commitment to the Jordanian Constitution and adherence to the Kingdom's laws and regulations, as well as respect for national security and various related organisations.

It said its financial sources were exclusively Jordanian, that it had no links with any external organisation and that it remained committed to the principle that no individual could be a member of two political parties.

"Subsequent to the meetings with the ministerial committee, we provided a set of clarifications to the Ministry of Interior," said Mr. Zibri, a prominent former member of the DFLP leadership.

It also reiterated that the party would adopt a neutral approach towards various public institutions, particularly in the education sector, meaning that it would not involve any government in



Tayseer Zibri

who led the DFLP faction in Jordan until the new law took effect.

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Poultry farmers voice complaints

KARAK (Petra) — Poultry farmers in Karak are finding it difficult to market their production of chicken, because of an increase in supply and a drop in prices.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, interviewed some farmers who complained about the drop in prices and increasing costs of poultry fodder. Their troubles are compounded further in the winter months when chickens die from below freezing temperatures.

One poultry farmer, Turki Abdul Latif Al Majali, said Karak farmers have been selling chicken at 650 to 680 fils per kilogramme for almost five months. He said the sale price is at least 220 fils less than the retail price, adding that this amount goes to the marketing agents and the poultry shops.

On the agricultural dimension, he said the quality of fodder available is poor, yet the prices are high; in addition, effective veterinary drugs are lacking.

Those factors combined contribute to the increased cost of chicken for the farmers, he said.

Mr. Tarawneh pointed out that the kilogramme of chicken costs the farmer 720 fils, while it is actually selling it for 580 fils or 650 fils, and the retail price is almost 900 fils per kilogramme.

He added that the consumer is not benefiting from the drop in the price of chicken at farms, but the marketing agents and the retailers are.

Mr. Tarawneh called for increasing the storage capacity in existing slaughter houses or constructing new slaughterhouses and cold rooms, and for subsidising fodder and rescheduling the debts of farmers, without adding any further interest on their loans.

more consideration to the humane aspect of their problem.

He said that more consideration should be paid to the suffering of the evictees and the long period they have spent away from the families and children.

"It is 39 days of torture and suffering," he said. "39 days of degradation ... 39 days of coldness, disease and hunger," he said.

Jordanians also participated Sunday in a march that started in Abdali, with about 500 people taking part at the beginning, and ending with around 3,000 at the Hashimiyeh Square.

The two-hour march was aimed at raising funds and collecting supplies for Iraqi children.

The march, organised by the Jordanian National Youth Federation, was continuously interrupted by calls and slogans condemning the U.S. policy and rejecting the "American-Zionist supremacy on the Arab territory."

The union's president, Deputy Mansour Seif Eddin Murad, delivered a speech at the end of the march in which he called upon the national groups to draw up a common plan of action.

During the march demonstrators shouted "America, listen well, we love Saddam Hussein," and "our blood and souls we sacrifice for you Iraq."

Leading activists, public figures and leaders of political parties, except for the Islamic movements, attended the march, among whom was Deputy Leith Shbeihat. Children accompanied by their parents also took part.



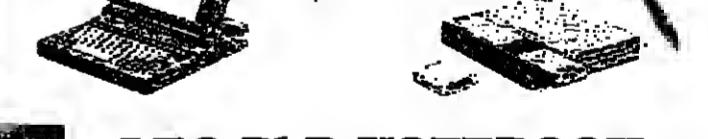
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486 SX-DX 66 MHZ
386 DX 40 MHZ

486 DX 33 MHZ
386 SX 33 MHZ

Agents:



386 SX
25 MHZ
4 MB RAM
60-80 MB H.D.
486 SX-DX
25-33-50 MHZ
4 MB RAM
80-120 MB H.D. Removable



LEO

Embassy Of India Amman Republic Day of India

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 1993, at 10 a.m. at the premises of the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman (Opp. Malhas Hospital). All Indians with their family members are cordially invited to attend the function.

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Clear signals, blurred reading

OBVIOUSLY, there is something mysteriously wrong in the latest round of American attacks against Iraqi targets, and Baghdad's denial of doing anything to provoke them. For one thing, it should be clear to the international community by now that, for whatever reasons — internal or external — there is a genuine desire for peace in Baghdad which knows more than anyone else that the U.S. is on the war path and would strike at the first sign of any further "defiance" of not only U.N. Security Council resolutions but also the allied-imposed rules of the game such as the "no-fly" zones and the rest.

While the imbroglio sparked by what Washington and some of its allies saw as Saddam Hussein thumbing his nose at them remains in a state of confusion over what piece fits where in the puzzle, one school of thought in the region definitely goes along with the Iraqi argument that the remnants of the Bush administration in Washington, aided by the military establishment, could actually be misguiding the new president.

For all practical purposes, the Bush administration's "get-Saddam-at-any-cost" policy was not a policy but an empty slogan as the Gulf crisis, the devastating war and the lingering problems have proven. If anything, the latest American military strikes have gone a long way in further consolidating the power and popularity of the Iraqi leadership.

The Clinton administration and its strategists should realise that there is little sense in any further pursuit of the Bush policy. Achieving this objective is an almost impossible task as senior American officials and intelligence experts have concluded.

And, even if the Clinton administration succeeded in ousting Saddam, the questions and problems that the new U.S. president will have to solve would be much complex; perhaps even more painful and disastrous to the same American interests that he has been elected to serve.

The signals coming out of Baghdad, judged against the backdrop of our familiarity with Iraq and Iraqis, are loud and clear: The country, its leadership and its people are fed up with years of straining under the harsh conditions created by the international sanctions. They are willing to compromise to settle their conflict with the West and put the entire episode behind in history. But, by the same token, compromise should not be read in the American dictionary as Iraqi capitulation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS not clear yet whether the new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make a tour of the Middle East early next month to stimulate the peace process, but what is certain is that Israel will not spare any moment to abort the process and blame the Arabs for the failure, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The daily said that the mass expulsion of the 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon was part of Israel's evil attempts to undermine the process and its rejection of the U.N. resolution is designed to show the world the Jewish state's disregard of the world community's decisions. For Israel, peace is a dangerous thing because it means a halt to its expansionist plans in the Arab region, and for this reason, it is obvious that all attempts to prevent the repatriation of the 415 Palestinians aim at complicating matters for the peace negotiators, noted the paper. It said that the Arab countries have no alternative to self-restraint and protecting the peace process from Israel's intransigence and evil designs. The paper said that the Arabs can only keep pressuring Washington into exerting real efforts to force Israel to abide by U.N. Resolutions and end the occupation.

SAWT AL SHAB daily discussed U.S.'s continued raids on Iraq and said that it is clear now that the military who served under Bush have been instructed by the former administration to maintain the attacks on Iraq in order to embarrass the new administration and involve it into further crises. The paper said that should the raids continue, the new administration will sacrifice its credibility and will hinder Clinton administration's attempts to bring about peace. Continued aggression on Iraq under the new administration does not anger the Iraqi people alone, but it would rather trigger angry and hostile reactions on the part of the Arab and Islamic nations and the world at large, warned the daily. The paper noted that Iraq has been complying strictly with the U.N. resolutions and implementing all the terms and conditions contained in the ceasefire agreement; therefore, the raids are meaningless and can only be described as provocative. While the United Nations continues to enforce its resolutions on Iraq, Israel is allowed to escape punishment and get away with its crimes, the paper pointed out. It said that Mr. Clinton should realise that the Arab World seeks peace and security but can't accept aggression. It said that the double standards vis-a-vis world affairs ought to stop if the Clinton administration and the United Nations are to retain their credibility.

United Nations expands role, forges new paths in 1992

By Judy Atta

UNITED NATIONS. — In 1992 the United Nations embarked on an "agenda for peace" that took the world organisation into new areas not envisioned by the framers of the U.N. Charter.

The year began with a new secretary general, Boutros Ghali of Egypt, and a historic Security Council summit — the first since the United Nations was founded in 1945.

The unprecedented council summit on Jan. 31 highlighted the vital role of the United Nations and its member states in channeling the benefits brought about by the cooling of East-West tensions and guiding nations through the post cold war era.

In the final summit declaration, President Bush and other world leaders pledged to work together for economic and social development and peace. Participants also asked the secretary general to recommend how the council might take a more active and deal with continuing problems in some world regions, including Iraq's consistent breaches of Security Council ceasefire terms for the Gulf war.

An exasperated but resolute

personnel for U.N. peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations; establish a permanent peacekeeping curriculum in U.S. military schools; make U.S. bases and facilities available for multinational training and field exercises; and provide U.S. military expertise to help the United Nations strengthen its peacekeeping operations.

The council also responded in 1992 to a series of challenges to peace and stability stemming from longstanding conflicts, as well as newly emerging crises, in such areas as Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, the former Soviet republics, Angola, Libya and Cambodia.

Iraq

As U.N. diplomats in 1992 contemplated future approaches and strategies for the United Nations' changing role in peacemaking and other areas, they also dealt with continuing problems in some world regions, including Iraq's consistent breaches of Security Council ceasefire terms for the Gulf war.

The sanctions will remain in place until Libya cooperates with the United States, Britain and France in the investigation and prosecution of Libyans suspected in the bombing of Pan Am and UTA flights; agrees to pay compensation; and demonstrates, "by concrete actions" that it had definitively ended all terrorist actions and assistance to terrorist groups.

By September, the representatives of Serbia and Montenegro, who occupied the former Yugoslavia seat in the General Assembly, were barred from participating in the work of the assembly.

As reports of atrocities and of "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia continued to surface, the council in October established a commission to investigate reports of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Council members called the commission a first step in a process that could ultimately lead to the prosecution of individuals for war crimes in the Yugoslav conflict.

In November, following indications that the U.N. sanctions regime against Serbia was being

prohibited the importation of all commodities and products from Serbia and Montenegro; ban air traffic and the use of flag vessels other than specifically approved humanitarian flights, and freeze external bank accounts and other financial assets. They also prohibit oil sales and other trade with the Belgrade regime and prevented Yugoslav athletes from participating in the summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Even though U.N. and international observers determined that "there was no conclusive evidence of major, systematic, or widespread fraud," UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi accused the ruling party of Jose Eduardo dos Santos of rigging the election.

lead an international operation and committed up to 30,000 U.S. troops to take part in the humanitarian mission in Somalia, the Security Council authorised the massive operation needed to assist thousands of hunger-stricken Somalis.

Mr. Ghali told the Security Council on Nov. 30 that it had "no alternative but to adopt more forceful measures to secure the humanitarian operations in Somalia" because the United Nations had been unable to get its 3,000 peacekeepers into the country.

Liberia

Elsewhere in Africa, the council imposed a mandatory arms embargo against Liberia in an effort of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to end the civil war in that west African country.

Somalia

Somalia was also in the forefront of U.N. action in 1992 following Mr. Ghali's proposal for an "innovative and comprehensive" U.N. plan in Somalia.

Cambodia

In 1992, the council also launched the largest peacekeeping operation in U.N. history — the \$1.900-million U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Designed to oversee Cambodia's peaceful transition to a democracy, the operation continued, despite a major setback when the Khmer Rouge refused to cooperate with UNTAC.

General Assembly

Although the Security Council dominated news from the United Nations in 1992 — meeting 129 times in formal discussions and holding hundreds of private sessions — the General Assembly, whose membership reached 179 during the year, endeavoured to keep its activities publicised.

The assembly president Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganey, said in December that the post-cold war geopolitical realignment had modified the General Assembly's role in world affairs.

"It is time for the General Assembly to do more than promote and reflect the expression of good intentions on the part of its member states by merely passing resolutions... The General Assembly is facing an historic challenge: to truly become a functional world parliament on the basis of the United Nations Charter," Mr. Ganey said.

In 1992, the assembly continued to keep pressure on the Haitian regime, strongly condemning "the attempted illegal replacement" of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and human rights violations in that Caribbean country.

The assembly also responded to human rights situations elsewhere in the world, including Sudan, Cuba, the former Yugoslav republics, Afghanistan, Myanmar and El Salvador.

Adopting nearly 270 resolutions in 1992, the assembly, among other actions, called for an international peace conference on Somalia; accepted the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction"; set out the agenda for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights; and established a 53-nation Sustainable Development Commission to follow up the work of the conference on the environment in Rio de Janeiro — United States Information Agency.



Security Council confronted top Iraqi officials twice during the year to remind them that the Baghdad regime had failed to comply with several major points of the ceasefire agreement. The council noted that Iraq; had refused to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspection teams, withholding data from them; that it refused to withdraw police posts from U.N.-patrolled areas along the Kuwaiti border; continued to hold thousands of Kuwaiti and third country prisoners of war; refused to sell oil to buy humanitarian supplies and make payments to the war compensation fund; and failed to service its foreign debt.

Returning for the opening of the General Assembly in September, President Bush reiterated the U.S. commitment to strengthen the United Nations' ability to meet the challenges to peace and security around the world. The president said the United States will train U.S. military

council was the worsening situation in the former Yugoslav republics, especially human rights violations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In April, Mr. Ghali rejected Bosnia's request for enlarging the U.N. peacekeeping force, citing "the current widespread violence" which, he said, made it impossible to define a workable concept for a U.N. peacekeeping operation. However, by June, the council unanimously approved a plan to expand the force to deliver humanitarian aid and, in August, authorised the use of force if needed to get food and medicine to Bosnia's beleaguered civilians.

In May, the Security Council first imposed wide-ranging mandatory economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro for the aggression against neighbouring Bosnia. The sanctions

circumvented regularly, the council voted overwhelmingly to ban shipments of most goods through Serbia and Montenegro and to allow nations to halt and inspect ships and their cargoes in the Adriatic Sea and on the Danube River.

In the final weeks of 1992, the United States was actively working to convince council members to adopt another resolution to enforce the ban on military flights over Bosnia that had been imposed in October.

Angola

Problems in Africa, including the crisis in Angola, were prominent on the United Nations' agenda in 1992.

Following considerable effort by the United Nations to oversee

His initiative called for a programme to help bring about a ceasefire throughout the country, oversee demobilisation and disarmament, promote national reconciliation and provide humanitarian relief and reconstruction programmes.

The secretary general said "the threat of mass starvation facing large segments of the population and the potential renewal of hostilities which could affect peace and stability throughout the Horn of Africa region" required an "immediate and comprehensive response from the United Nations and the international community.

In July, the Security Council asked Mr. Ghali to use all available means, including an emergency airlift, to get food to the starving people of Somalia. After the United States offered to

Obsolete legacies and reflections of tomorrow

By Najwa Kefaya

Conscious women living in this patriarchal, male-prejudiced society are frustrated by the injustice inflicted upon them only for serving as "scapegoats" for the sustenance of the family and the "male-dominated society."

Women's affairs specialists are impeded in their work to help fellow women as they are constantly confronted by agony and despair caused by this partiality.

They employ their utmost attention, time and effort to help many of those underprivileged, wretched women overcome the tragic predicament they suffer from and help them in the process of developing themselves, raise their awareness, empower them and improve their overall status in our society.

However, every now and then, for us, as agents for women's development, a tragic event takes place and triggers our otherwise submerged frustration, upon which we lose all our momentum and come to a halt. With much despair, we feel that all our efforts and dedication in the field of women's development are, to say the least, totally inadequate, if not purely in vain. We feel our goals to enhance the development of our society at large through enhancing the development of its "underdeveloped

half", are too ambitious, if at all attainable. It is a dream which could never materialise within the status quo of our male-oriented, male-dominated society with its obsolete assumptions. Changing this pathetic status quo is impossible to attain without the vital support and the vigorous patronage of the political and legislative systems.

Today, the need for unified, concentrated lobbying to attain such a support is urgently needed, as we bear of yet another social calamity, where a female victim is sacrificed on the alter of our precious honour and priceless values. It is amazing how the ardent urge to preserve the chastity of the Arab woman supersedes and overrules all other priorities of our pathetic present.

As if the Arab Nation has retrieved all its lost integrity and the only thing left to redeem is the chastity of its women, which ironically, is the major yardstick to measure the honour of its men, with little relevance to their personal achievements!

An excellent manifestation of the above, here is a story which stirs the exasperation of the reader. It is a story that appeared in the Al Dustour Arabic newspaper of Jan. 3, 1993, under "From the police and judiciary files" section. The story is about a man

who killed his wife after stabbing her in the throat and back three times. We also learn that this man was convicted of premeditated murder but sentenced only to one year in prison as his deed was justified by the fact that he "doubted the moral conduct of his wife."

A woman is dead because her husband claims that her conduct was "improper", and that what "provoked" him to commit the crime specifically was that on the day of the murder, and at 13:00 hours (in the midst of the day), she stood out in the open yard of the house, "looking and smiling at a person (not even confirmed if it was a man or a woman), in the next building!"

What a price to pay for what might have been an innocent act, a wrong perception on the part of the husband, (who in turn may have been outrageously jealous), or a hundred other probabilities which would by no means justify such a savage action. The slaughtered woman might very well have been "not guilty"! But she never lived to prove her "innocence".

Must all men understand from this example that slaughtering their wives, even if they only as much as doubted them, is a simple act which is justifiable within our legislative system? A simple

LETTERS

More human rights violations

To the Editor:

This is to bring to your kind attention that in the carnage and arson carried out on Jan. 6, 1993, by Indian paramilitary forces in Sopore, in Indian-held Kashmir, more than 75 Kashmiris, including women and children, were killed and hundreds of houses, shops and vehicles were destroyed by fire deliberately set by the Indian forces.

The latest massacre committed by the Indian occupation forces had sparked protest demonstrations throughout Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir and brought life to a complete standstill. The unprecedent death and destruction wreaked by its forces has been condemned by Asia Watch and Amnesty International and is timely to prompt denunciation by other human rights bodies. The U.S. State Department has voiced "concern" over the tragic incident.

The urgent priorities are cessation of the military crackdown and violations of human rights and the restoration of the internationally-acknowledged right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

We feel the escalating Indian repression and violation of human rights should be condemned by all nations and individuals who support human rights and are against forceful occupation.

Shaukat Ali Mukadam,
Charge d'Affaires,
Embassy of Pakistan,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

raq denies firing at U.S. jets

(Continued from page 1)
On Sunday, the official Iraqi news Agency (INA) quoted a foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Iraqi forces had not fired at the American planes or turned off tracking radar.

The incident, he said, "did not take place at all." He also told *VIA* that Iraqi forces were still trying to find the site of the bomb dropped by the planes.

He added: "Iraq is still bound by the ceasefire."

Iraq earlier issued denials to incidents Thursday and Friday in its northern "no-fly" zone.

In a later report Sunday, INA noted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as admitting that Iraq did have a "low-level radar" functioning at the time that U.S. warplanes attacked a missile base near the northern oil centre of Mosul earlier in the week.

The Pentagon usually has said it bombed missile bases only after they switched on their radar. But the Iraqi spokesman said in this incident, it was a "normal, general low-level" radar, "the kind used by air traffic controllers at airports — not by missile crews."

At a news conference in Baghdad, two Iraqi officers — engineers at the Defence Ministry — argued that the cruise missile had hit the Al Rashid Hotel on Jan. 17 was a deliberate attack.

"It was directed 100 percent to this point," Brigadier Mnjahid Al Ani, one of the engineers, told reporters. "These missiles are accurate to within 10 metres."

The Iraqi officers explained what they said was cruise missile technology and showed films of what appeared to be the approaching missile with its strobe lights flashing.

They concluded it was aimed at the hotel because cruise strobe lights begin flashing five seconds before hitting target, in an effort to check the location.

The officers also said the hotel must have been the target because cruise warheads only are armed just before reaching target and that this warhead exploded.

The U.S. government says the intended target was the Al Nida

industrial complex, 13 kilometres away from the Al Rashid.

Pentagon officials said at the time that the U.S. navy cruise missile was knocked off course by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire. They also said available evidence indicated the 450-kilogramme warhead did not detonate upon landing outside the hotel. They said the explosion was caused by combustion of the missile's fuel.

Meanwhile, U.N. chemical weapons destruction experts resumed destruction of mustard and nerve gas at the Al Muthanna plant north of Baghdad and team leader Paul Brough, an American, said the process would be under way at full capacity Monday.

He reported good cooperation from the Iraqi government.

A team of inspectors also made aerial surveillance by helicopter of undisclosed locations but U.N. officials would not say that they were looking for. No problems were reported.

Asked in the CBS interview he held President Saddam should be forced out of power, Mr. Aspen said the focus should be on personalising the conflict, and ensuring Iraq complies with U.N. resolutions that followed the Gulf war.

"The object (of U.S. policy) is to comply with U.N. resolution. I personally believe that also means Saddam Hussein has to go," he said.

"I will work to make sure Iraq complies with U.N. resolutions," he added, cautioning that even if President Saddam left power, his Iraqi successor was not necessarily going to comply with U.N. resolutions.

In response to the second incident Friday in the northern "no-fly" zone, the Clinton White House said President Saddam would not be given any room to bend the rules.

The president is prepared to hold firm with Iraq. They must comply with all the U.N. resolutions," spokesman George Stephanopoulos said. "If the Iraqis take hostile action against the American pilots they will respond."

House puts off debate on civil service

(Continued from page 1)

endorsed a draft law on the welfare of the mentally and physically handicapped as amended by the Judiciary Committee.

If passed by the Senate and endorsed by His Majesty the King, the law will reserve two percent of work opportunities at government agencies and public companies to the handicapped and will require public buildings to have special facilities for them. The law will also grant tax exemptions to organisations in-

olved in the treatment, care and rehabilitation of the handicapped.

The House, which will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, also listened to ministers' answers to deputies' questions on a number of domestic issues and referred proposals by some deputies to its Administrative Committee. These include a request signed by 58 deputies for surcharges on cigarettes and other products and industries that are proven to contribute to causing cancer.

Syria urges Clinton to save peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

could be very appropriate because he will feel at first hand an Israeli position which contradicts his trends towards peace."

Syria's vice president, meanwhile, said Damascus wanted the talks to continue despite the lack of progress so far.

"We are still at the starting point, but this does not mean that the peace process has reached a dead end or failed and we will continue the negotiations," Abdul Halim Khaddam said in an interview with the London-based Arabic magazine *Al Wasat*.

"If we reach any results that will satisfy us and achieve our national goals we will continue and if we don't reach that we will come to a stop," he added.

Mr. Khaddam said Syria would consider receiving senior Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabin met with Mr. Clinton during his visit to the United States last December.

Israel hopes U.S. will block sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

would issue a report to the Security Council.

Mr. Ghabrekhani's trips, and the last month by another U.N. emissary, aimed to secure Israel's compliance with the U.N. resolution demanding the immediate safe return of the Palestinians.

All but one minister in Mr. Rabin's backed the expulsions. Israel Television said Friday that 10 of the 18 ministers would act a compromise allowing the victims' early return. But it did not identify the ministers and he interviewed publicly, even though most leftist ministers stood by a government decision.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of the leftist Meretz Party said he opposed the evictions but was sure Mr. Rabin would find a way out of the crisis.

"Even without returning the portees, there are still various ways to remove the international issue on Israel," Mr. Sarid said.

"Many people are waiting for supreme court to solve the issue," said Ron Cohen, a lawyer from the Meretz Party. But I prefer for our govern-

ment to be strong and courageous enough to make a decision that will solve the problem," Mr. Cohen said on Israel Radio.

Israel's cabinet meanwhile stood firm on its refusal to allow the Palestinians stranded in Lebanon to return to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Any solution will be based on the original decision that those terrorists that were temporarily removed will not be returned," Health Minister Haim Ramon told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Addressing the cabinet, Mr. Rabin expressed confidence that President Clinton would continue a U.S. policy of protecting Israel from U.N. sanctions, cabinet sources said.

Meanwhile, European Council President Miguel Martinez said on arriving in Israel to meet with Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that he would bring up the expulsions.

"I will definitely speak about that but will not allow this issue, however deplorable I personally consider this incident to be, to absorb the whole of my mission," the Spanish diplomat said.

A tale of two Mendelssohns

By Gérard Condé

compositions that have come down to us have much more than mere curiosity value.

During her childhood Fanny was given as thorough a musical education as her brother, and each relied on the other's advice. Even by the time Felix had become a mature composer, her temperament and experience continued to make her an excellent mentor.

But Fanny could not exploit

her talents further, since her father did not want her to take up a musical career. And Felix, although he admired his sister's pianistic talents and her compositions (it is possible he published some of them disguised under his own name), was of the same opinion, though for different reasons.

Fanny was understandably rather bitter about this. Her husband Wilhelm Hensel, on the

other hand, did all he could to encourage his wife to exploit her creativity, with the result that she not only composed a large number of Lieder, but organised private concerts that were enthusiastically attended by Berlin's music elite.

It was very hard, over a century and a half later, to determine who was responsible for what looks very much like a half-wasted life. It cannot have been easy for a woman belonging to the German bourgeoisie of the time, however open and liberal it may have seemed, to become emancipated.

Fanny apparently lacked neither character nor determination.

ly archives and wrote the first biography of his mother and uncle. There are many documentary sources concerning the Mendelssohns for musicologists to draw on, but Hensel's "Familie Mendelssohn," published in 1879, remains a goldmine of information.

Much new material surfaced recently with the publication by the American Pendragon Press of Fanny's correspondence edited by Marcia Citron. The recent publication of Francois Tillard's "Fanny Mendelssohn" avoids the shrill feminism and oversimplification that unfortunately mar many such rehabilitations — Le Monde.

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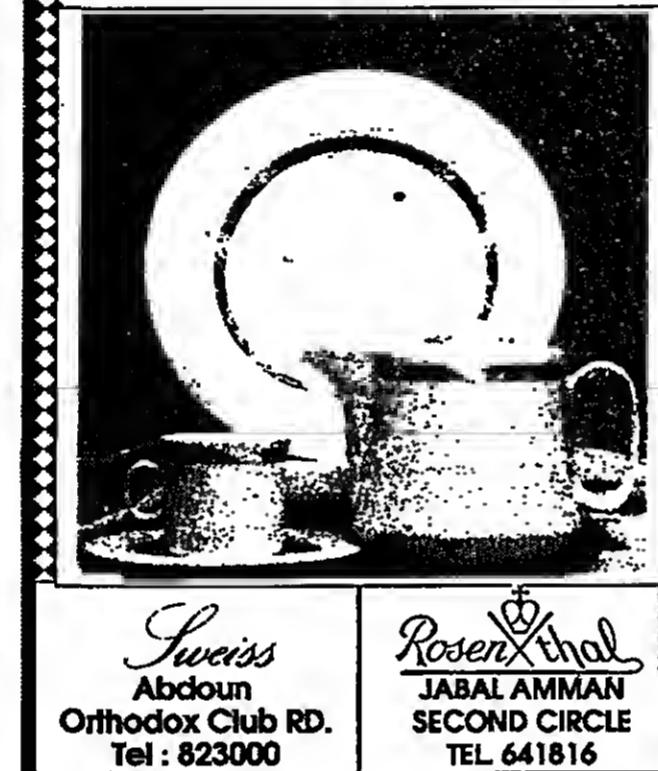
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Al Orthodoxi will have to win Tuesday to force a third deciding match

1st Division Basketball Championship Final stage begins today Orthodoxi, Ahli clash Tuesday

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four matches remain in the First Division Basketball Championship which comes to an end Tuesday when Jordan's basketball powerhouses — Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi — clash at the Sports Palace Court at Al Hussein Youth City.

Al Ahli now lead the standings with 26 points, followed by all-time rivals Al Orthodoxi one point behind. Titleholders, Al Orthodoxi, will seek to defeat Al Ahli and force a deciding match, while Al Ahli will aim to end all speculation by scoring their second win over their rivals to win back the title they won in 1990.

Although Al Orthodoxi lost 68-65 to Al Ahli in the first round of the championship, both teams have shown no mercy easily overcoming their opponents by scoring over the 100 point mark — a clear indicator that any serious threat of their top-two positions is still far-fetched.

Three matches will be played Monday as Al Jali and Al Jazirah will play the now relegated Homenmen and Al Abbasi,

while Al Watani clash against Al Hussein.

Al Jazirah have this year secured third place after scoring a crucial win over Al Hussein. Al Jali, third place winners last year could not compete for an advanced standing this season after they pulled out of a match — and consequently lost a point — early in the competition.

Al Hussein will seek to defeat Al Watani to secure fourth place, while Al Jali and Al Jazirah will have no problem overcoming Homenmen and Al Abbasi.

Al Watani, on the other hand will try to stage an upset by defeating Al Hussein.

Standings prior to final round

Team	W	L	SF	SA	PTS
Al Ahli	13	—	1360	647	26
Al Orthodoxi	12	1	1690	828	25
Al Jazirah	8	5	1028	974	21
Al Hussein	6	7	916	1052	19
Al Jali	6	7	958	1007	18
Al Watani	5	8	797	1045	18
Homenmen	1	12	721	1264	14
Al Abbasi	1	12	705	1358	14

Klinsmann and Voeller strike again; Manchester United keep lead

PARIS (Agencies) — German World Cup strikers Jürgen Klinsmann and Rudi Voeller struck again Saturday to give Monaco and Marseille victories which kept the French title race wide open.

Klinsmann, the cool executioner, hit his sixth goal in a fortnight as he led Monaco to a comfortable 2-0 win over Le Havre, keeping his side a point clear of Nantes at the top of the league.

Voeller, hat-trick hero just two weeks ago, hit two more in a tight-fought 3-1 win by Marseille over Lyon but his late winner was hotly contested by the visitors who claimed he scored with his hand.

The young Nantes side maintained their rhythm with a 2-0 victory over Nîmes, young striker Nicolas Oueddei getting both goals.

Paris St Germain, impressive 2-0 winners in Caen Friday, stayed three points off the pace with Marseille, leaving Auxerre the only contenders to lose ground. They lost 1-0 in Bordeaux to a Zinedine Zidane goal.

Monaco's form of late has prompted many observers to suggest they are the team who could interrupt Marseille's series of four successive titles.

Klinsmann gave them the lead in the 35th minute, his 14th goal of the season, and winger Christian Perez wrapped things up just eight minutes later.

Marseille got off to a great start

Vélodrome when Voeller netted in the fourth minute but their surprisingly fragile defence let in Romarin Billong for an equaliser in the 24th.

The visitors seemed set to grab a point until Voeller's controversial second eight minutes from time, a goal which prompted Lyon's trainer Raymond Domenech to race off the bench in rage as he called for it to be disallowed.

Only 17 goals were scored in the 10 matches played, one less than the previous low set last week.

In British soccer teen-age Welsh winger Ryan Giggs scored 14 minutes from the end as mighty Manchester United edged lowly Brighton 1-0 Saturday to gain the fifth round of Football Association Cup.

Playing without injured Frenchman Eric Camona and his strike partner Mark Hughes, United fielded a weakened attack but still had too much power for the division two team and 19-year-old Giggs netted the winner.

Saturday's fourth round games

did not produce a single upset.

Second division Hartlepool, which knocked out Crystal Palace in the third round yet is struggling to avoid bankruptcy, lost 1-0 at Premier League team Sheffield United.

Tranmere, which is gunning for promotion to the top flight for the first time in its 108 year history, led Premier League team Ipswich until the 68th minute after former Scottish international Winger Pat Nevin scored.

Tranmere also had knocked

Premier League Oldham out in the third round but, this time, goals by Jason Dozzell and Bulgarian striker Bontche Guentchev turned the game around for an Ipswich triumph.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 25, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Keep abreast of your movements around the house today, and pay particular attention to where you put things — your keys, your feet... you can be "tripped up" by absentmindedness, or by loose electrical wiring underfoot.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early in the day invite friends and acquaintances into your home with whom you can enjoy yourself and gain desired information in the evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fine day to get whatever complications that require thought and expert knowledge from you and send messages off before the sun goes down.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It may not seem romantic but you can enjoy today by getting rid of whatever is holding you back and planning a new more interesting activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider well just what your material aims are and then seek out the advice from successful financial and business persons who can be helpful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The daytime can be spent in gazing into yourself the personal conditions you must desire to have about you, improving personal appearance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This day can be utilized to small over your secret ambitions and to decide upon a campaign of action to gain them which can be put in motion.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much conversation with partners can find you and then reaching a meeting of minds which will be possible if resistance exists between you.



Stefan Edberg of Sweden, playing with a back injury, leans on the net at the end of his match. Edberg later announced he was pulling out of the doubles (AFP photo)

dropping a set when he motored into the last eight with a 6-1 6-7-6 win over 15th seed Sergi Bruguera.

On a wet Melbourne evening, the slow-starting Spaniard might have had more success wielding a rolled-up umbrella against Courier in the first set but had at least retrieved respectability by the end.

The first set lasted just 22 minutes and although the defending champion appeared to relax slightly, he was well pleased by the time he returned to the locker-room.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction... this is the way I was hoping I was going to play," said Graf.

Mentally I am getting much better, I felt mentally tough today," she said.

Courier now has two days off before his next match, likely to be against Czech Peter Korda, two sets up in an unfinished match against American Chris Garner.

"Now's a great time to get my body ready for the push," he said.

The only other man definitely through to the last eight is German Michael Stich, still in the tournament after a week in which he has been fined \$2,500 for assorted ill-tempered comments.

"I haven't played my best but I'm still in the quarter-finals," said Stich after serving 22 aces in a 6-7 6-4 6-0 win over Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

Edberg pulls out of doubles

Stefan Edberg's familiar injury jinx at the Australian Open threatens to strike again after the world number two withdrew from the doubles with a bad back Sunday.

The Swede, forced to default through injury at Flinders Park in both 1989 and 1990, had claimed

his back was not bothering him

but subsequently pulled out of his doubles commitment with Dutchman Jan Siemerink.

His coach Tony Pickard issued

a statement saying: "Stefan has withdrawn from the doubles competition due to a lower back spasm he sustained late in the match yesterday. On medical advice he has withdrawn from the doubles only."

"He will continue to receive

treatment and we are hopeful he

will be able to take his place on

court tomorrow."

Asked about possible back

trouble after his third round

match against Amor Mansdorf,

the Swede replied: "You have

good eyes. Actually it's not too

bad... it's very good. It comes

with age you know."

It now appears more serious

and Edberg's opponent in the last

16, Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch,

and American Peter Sampras will

be among those most interested in

Edberg's medical bulletins.

Sampras is in the same half of

the draw as Edberg and the pair

are seeded to meet in the semifinals,

a confrontation regarded as

one of the potential classic matches

at this year's tournament.

Edberg, 27 last Tuesday, won

two Australian Open titles at its

previous venue, Kooyong, but

has yet to repeat that success at

Flinders Park.

In 1989 he was forced to

scratch from the quarterfinals

with a back complaint and was

struck down again the following

year. Having reached the final

against Ivan Lendl, he had to

retire in the third set with a pulled

stomach muscle.

Edberg, the world's number-

one ranked player for 12 weeks in

1992, is merely the latest top

player to be suffering from wear

and tear.

THE BETTER HALF

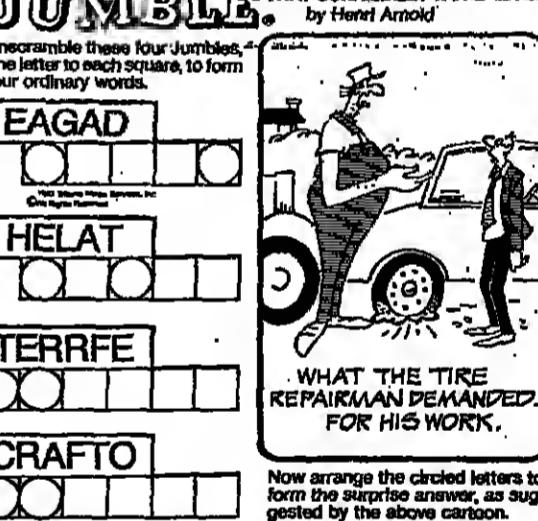
By Harris



"My wife sent me here because I have trouble seeing her point of view."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Hotel Arnold



Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MANGY AGATE LIMPIO PRYING

Answer: The worst thing about going to the dentist — THE PAYING

</div

Financial Markets Jordan Times
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

India saves on oil import bill as prices dip

NEW DELHI (R) — India has saved substantially on oil imports because of the drop in international prices and is holding off on new contracts because it expects prices to fall further, petroleum ministry officials say.

India's oil import bill for fiscal 1992-93 (April-March), earlier forecast at \$6.1 billion, will be around \$5.5 billion unless prices suddenly rise, said a ministry official.

He said he could not give a precise figure because contracts for March deliveries would probably not be fixed further.

"Until the exercise for the whole year is completed, it is not possible to predict the scenario," the official said.

"But it is likely we will save. We save if the Brent price is below \$18 (per barrel)," he explained.

World benchmark Brent crude was trading in Dubai at \$17.05 per barrel Thursday for March deliveries. Prices have fallen because of high production and the trend is likely to continue due to a mild winter in the West, oil analysts say.

Other ministry officials said India was also expected to import about nine million tonnes of petroleum products, CMIE said.

The savings on oil imports are expected to boost India's sagging foreign exchange reserves, which fell \$276 million to \$5.36 billion in the first nine months of the fiscal year.

German president urges open trade with Third World

BONN (R) — In a call for more open world trade, German President Richard von Weizsaecker has said the European Community (EC) should give agricultural products from developing countries freer access to its markets.

"We cannot avoid national, European and world-wide liberalisation of markets for agricultural products," he said at a farm fair in Berlin.

"We cannot expect impoverished developing nations, in which 40 per cent of the gross national product and 80 per cent of workers depend on agriculture, to accept a continuation of past policies which shut off our markets and suppress competition," he pointed out.

He criticised new EC rules which slap punitive duties on banana imports from South America to protect more expensive growers in dependencies or former colonies of EC states.

"Neither producing countries overseas nor German consumers can understand the current pro-

tectionist EC banana-import regime with which it wants to protect its home market," Mr. Weizsaecker said.

Speaking at the 67th annual Green week Farm Fair, he said EC policies had also forced Ecuador to cut its vital oil exports by a quarter.

"We can imagine how the EC would react if something similar were to happen here," the president added.

Mr. Weizsaecker said it was vital to complete the stalled six-year Uruguay Round of negotiations to lower world trade barriers. They were originally due to end two years ago.

"It was a serious failure and equally an alarming warning for the world economy that despite all promises the round is still not finished," he said.

"All parties of the multilateral world trade system will benefit if trade barriers are dismantled and trade structures changed to opt for more ecological farming methods.

Moneychangers find little money to earn a fortune

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Moneychangers, who reopened two months ago after a long absence, are realising that the market is not the same hustling and bustling place as that of the 70s and 80s.

According to Naim Msharbash, a moneychanger who resumed operations on Nov. 10, 1992, the whole situation has changed. The volume of dealings is far below what it used to be and, he said, income is minimal, especially when taken against the high capital, fees and other requirements which had to be provided to the financial authorities to get back in the business.

Mr. Msharbash said that his daily turnover at present was about \$30,000, compared to the \$200,000 of the past boom years. Another moneychanger said that compared to his daily turnover of around \$20 million in the past, now the volume has shrunk to about \$20,000.

The return of tens of thousands of Jordanian expatriates from the Gulf was the main reason for the reduction of the flow of funds through moneychangers, Mr. Msharbash pointed out.

He added that the misfortune of Iraqis was another factor which curbed activity.

The stability in Lebanon also prompted the Syrians to shift a good part of their "private and quiet" business from Amman to Beirut, said Mr. Msharbash.

Mr. Msharbash and Jawdat Alami, another moneychanger, saw no quick recovery to the sluggish Jordanian market and sensed no possible return to "the golden days of the past" in the near future.

Both moneychangers said that prior to cancelling all moneychanging business in 1988 there were some 60 firms engaged in the profession. Both were expecting the number to exceed the previous total because, even new, previously unknown companies have been given licences.

"We are only five operating at present and we can cover all the needs of the market," Mr. Msharbash said.

"The market has shrunk tremendously and many will drop out during a short period," Mr. Alami stressed, noting that the business was no more enough to satisfy all.

Mr. Alami elaborated that banks were also in moneychanging business now and, unlike the past years, they were full-fledged competitors. This is made possible because, although moneychangers could offer marginally lower prices, of more flexibility in processing a transaction and a more cordial and quicker service, Mr. Alami elaborated, a customer may still choose to approach a bank's moneychanging window for its proximity or some other personal reason or business advantage.

Another moneychanger, who requested anonymity, told the Jordan Times that new regulations draw guidelines as to how moneychanging operations should be conducted; these regulations impose very tight constraints and could well be described as unrealistic.

The moneychanger specified the condition of having to deal with foreign banks only through local banks as being a big obstacle.

"How can I operate by buying a foreign currency cheque for a large amount and then having to wait for maybe 14 days until my local bank here collects the value of the cheque from abroad?" asked the moneychanger.

Some other operational details, such as movement or transportation of funds, are still not yet clear enough, and, according to the moneychanger, more time was needed to specify best practical methods.

The moneychangers who were interviewed did not regret reopening the same business after a long absence, despite all the complaints they aired and the surprises they encountered.

"This business runs in the family. My grandfather was the first licensed moneychanger in Jordan, and here I am, having secured the first licence to reopen," Mr. Msharbash said.

He said that the normal daily "change of currencies" was not profitable to the extent of saying it could be a good source of income.

"It is only occasional hit, (darbat in Arabic) like this euphoria over the Iraqi dinar, that gives me good business," Mr. Msharbash said.

Mr. Alami, tackling dealings in U.S. dollars, stressed that dollar trading represented about 60 per cent of his daily volume. He also emphasised that the Jordanian dinar was riding high, noting that there was high demand for it, especially that the interest on the dinar was very encouraging compared to other currencies. "Yesterday I was approached by an investor who sought to change \$100,000 to dinars," he noted.

The demand in general is mostly for U.S. dollars and Jordanian dinars, followed by European currencies. Arab banknotes are not actively traded, except for the Iraqi dinars which have been hoarded by Jordanians, anticipating large profit," Mr. Alami elaborated.

"We can provide you with any amount in any currency up to the equivalent of JD 20,000, without asking any question or recording any information," Mr. Msharbash pointed out. "However," he added, "we are sensing some moves from the authorities to oblige us to get identification of clients. If that happens, it would be totally disastrous. Why should anybody come to me then for foreign currency?"

But what is the situation in the black market now that moneychangers are legally back in the free market?

A moneychanger says: "The black market still exists, but all those involved in it are now a bunch of crooks, fishing in murky waters, who spread false rumours and capitalise on the public's desire to become wealthy fast, especially from dealings in Iraqi or Lebanese currencies."

China to relax more controls on private business

BEIJING (R) — China is preparing to relax more controls over its small but thriving private sector as part of the drive for a market economy.

Liu Minxue, chief of the administration for industry and commerce, said private business "will be allowed to engage in the production and management in almost all the industries except for those concerned with national security and health," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The individual and private sectors are playing a more important role in China's drive for the market economy. Both are considered as necessary supplements to state or collectively-owned enterprises," Xinhua said.

The agency said the new policies would apply to an estimated 15 million household and private enterprises, which paid state taxes worth about \$3.5 billion last year.

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 18 — January 22, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar dropped significantly last week, hurt by fading expectations that the wide gap between U.S. interest rates and European interest rates will narrow in the near term. The U.S. unit thus ended the week in New York at 1.59 marks, its lowest level of 1993.

The dollar retreated in a technical correction Monday when expectations of concerted interest rate cuts in Germany and other EMS countries failed to materialise over the weekend. The thin trading volume accumulated, however, the dollar's decline, as most banks in New York were closed for Martin Luther King's day.

During the rest of the week, market participants' attention became focused on the issue of the timing of convergence between U.S. and German interest rates, which was becoming increasingly uncertain. Apart from various remarks by German officials suggesting that inflation rates were still too high to permit an interest rate cut in Germany, market participants were also uncertain about the new U.S. domestic economic plans of Mr. Clinton's administration, including the near term direction of U.S. interest rates. All this uncertainty gave dominance to technical factors and short term considerations, and the dollar, thus, continued to decline steadily. News of developments in the Gulf, on the other hand, failed to attract safe-haven demand for the dollar.

Further waves of dollar selling materialised at the end of the week, spurred by comments by a Bundesbank official that a German interest rate cut was still to early, and accentuated later on when the U.S. unit fell below the psychologically significant 1.60 marks and 1.5975 marks.

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Yugoslav leader says Croatian Air Force, navy attacking Serbs

GENEVA (R) — Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic Sunday accused the Croatian Air Force and navy of bombing Serb-populated areas in Croatian Krajina and said a "veritable war" was under way.

He told reporters the fighting, which broke out Friday, was undermining efforts in Geneva to negotiate a peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina — wedged between Yugoslavia and southern Croatia.

"Croatia is using its air force and navy and is bombing populated areas in the Serb Republic of Krajina.... This is a veritable war," declared Mr. Cosic after a meeting with international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

"This seriously undermines and complicates the peace effort here.... There can be no peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina unless there is peace in the United Nations-protected areas in Krajina."

But Mr. Cosic indicated there were no immediate plans to send Yugoslav forces to join local Serbs resisting the Croatian army in the region, close to the Adriatic coast.

"We shall proceed in a peaceful way to try to get a resolution," he said. Yugoslavia hoped its appeal to the U.N. Security Council for a Croatian withdrawal would bring a quick pull-out, he added.

In Zadar, a major Croatian port facing the Krajina region inland, a Croatian government official denied planes were being used in the Krajina incursion but he declined to comment on whether navy guns were firing.

"I wish we had them (planes) to use. But we wouldn't waste Croatia's only two (Soviet-built) MiG fighters to hit Krajina," the official, in charge of liaison with U.N. peacekeeping forces in the region, told Reuters by telephone.

Croatia's naval resources are also deemed to be small.

The Yugoslav Navy bombarded Croatian Adriatic ports after the republic seceded from the Serbian-led federation in 1991, and Croatia managed to seize a small number of ships.

But the number of vessels it acquired in the conflict was small and the size of its navy now is believed to be modest.

Lieutenant General Satish Nambari, commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in ex-Yugoslavia, said Saturday Croatia was not known to be using any planes in its Krajina incursion.

Serb forces Sunday shelled the strategically vital Maslenica Bridge area in southwest Croatia, Croatian Radio reported.

The bridge is a vital link between the north and south Croatian coastline, cut off by the Serbs in fighting which ended in a fragile U.N.-sponsored truce a year ago. It was the main reason for the incursion of Croatian forces Friday into the U.N.-controlled area.

The Croats were trying to hold off the Serbs while securing a wider zone around the bridge, the radio reported.

The report could not be independently verified as Croat authorities were prohibiting United Nations troops, European Community envoys and foreign journalists from the combat area.

Croatian Radio said all was quiet around the Zemunick Airport area close to the port of Zadar, where a French soldier was seriously wounded Saturday when Croat forces shelled U.N. peacekeeping forces positions.

Serbian Television, quoting Serb military sources in Krajina, said all was quiet during the night along the entire frontline stretching from the Maslenica Bridge to the Peruca Dam in the north.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug said seven soldiers and civilians were killed in the fighting between Benkovac and Zadar Saturday.

It added that Croat forces were amassing along the border with Krajina.

Croatian Radio said the condition of the French soldier critically wounded Saturday was no longer life threatening. He was to be taken back to France to recover, sources at Zadar's main hospital told Reuters.

The authorities of Croatian northern port of Rijeka denied a Tanjug report that a Croatian ship laden with arms and ammunition for forces around Maslenica was turned back to its home port by NATO ships patrolling the Adriatic Sea.

"Croatians could use land routes to transport weapons by truck so why should we go by ship and risk being caught?" the port captain told Reuters.

Meanwhile international mediator Lord Owen said Sunday participants to peace talks in Geneva on the former Yugoslavia would not give up and would stay as long as it was necessary.

"We are going to stay here as long as it takes," Lord Owen said on British Broadcasting Corporation Television.

"We are not going to give up these negotiations. We are not going to have a recess unless we reach a brick wall, unless it is clear we cannot make any progress."

Lord Owen and fellow mediator Cyrus Vance held emergency talks Saturday with the presidents of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and the rump Yugoslavia on the crisis which erupted when Croatian troops stormed into the neutral U.N.-monitored area inhabited mainly by Serbs.

"So long as we can see progress will stick at it hour after hour. The key participants are here. We intend to stay here and we intend to get a settlement, but whether we can make it just don't know," he said, adding, "If we find that one party is

blocking us we will go to the Security Council and put the issues straight out in front of the world and perhaps say some of the things we have bitten back over the past months."

Lord Owen said: "Intervention on the ground is an immensely difficult option and it will put at risk humanitarian effort... the idea that you can intervene without threatening that humanitarian effort is cloud cuckoo land."

He said he hoped that if a peace settlement was achieved, British troops and others would be prepared to change their role from a humanitarian one to a genuine peacekeeping mission.

"What we would want them to do is to be prepared to change the mandate, become part of the peacekeeping and monitoring of the ceasefire and cessation of

hostilities."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Gali Friday deplored Croatia's "unilateral military action" in sending troops over the year-old U.N. truce line into Krajina region and said U.N. forces were trying to prevent any escalation.

A statement issued through a spokesman said the Croatian action was a setback to efforts by the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to achieve a peaceful transfer of control to Croatia.

"UNPROFOR is taking all steps in its power to prevent the situation from escalating," it added.

In Bonn, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel condemned Saturday the offensive by Croatian troops on the edge of Krajina region.

"I condemn and regret... the push by Croatian troops into Krajina," he said in a statement.

"The outbreak of military violence in the Krajina area controlled by United Nations blue helmet troops is a setback in the search for a political solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia."

Friends and colleagues from the cinema world — as well as dozens of reporters and photographers — gathered at the church overlooking Lake Geneva for a funeral service before her burial in the Tolochenaz Cemetery.

Ms. Hepburn, whose doe-like beauty and dry wit captivated audiences during the 1950s and 1960s, abandoned her film career in her early 40s to bring up her two sons in Switzerland and later campaign for hungry children in the Third World.

Her cancer was discovered last summer after she made a visit to Somalia as an emissary for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to draw world attention to the famine there.

Her first husband and fellow screen star Mel Ferrer, whom she divorced in 1968, and her two sons Sean and Luca followed the coffin into the simple Protestant Church after it arrived in a grey of 63.

Among other mourners were Roger Moore, star of James Bond films, and Hubert Givenchy who heads the Paris fashion house for whom the Belgian-born Hepburn was once a model.

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"I express my deep regret about what has happened," local television quoted Mr. Shevardnadze as saying. "The interests of Georgia demand that this crime be solved."

Meanwhile, sporadic fighting and artillery duels were reported Friday and Saturday in Nagorno-

Khmer Rouge 'will not disrupt' elections

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Sunday he was certain the Khmer Rouge guerrillas would not try to disrupt Cambodia's elections in May because the world community would react strongly.

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SUPPORTING FOREIGNERS: Participants in the largest demonstration in Vienna since 1945 light their candles near the city centre Saturday as part of a protest against a referendum in Austria which would restrict the number of foreigners living in the country. Over 200,000 people took part in the protest against the referendum called by the right-wing "Liberal Party" (AFP photo)



Clinton reads Bush letter

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said a note left for him in the Oval Office by former President George Bush and was "very generous" and "very encouraging." Owing presidents have traditionally left a personal letter for their successors to the Oval Office. Mr. Bush wrote a note last Wednesday and left it in an envelope on the desk. Mr. Clinton read it Friday. Asked Saturday what the note said, Mr. Clinton declined to give details. "I think we should leave it between the two of us," he said. "It was a very generous note and a very encouraging one." In 1989, Mr. Reagan left such a letter for Mr. Bush. On his way to California after Mr. Bush's inauguration, Mr. Reagan described this note as "just a little one telling him just to carry on and he'd be in my thoughts and prayers."

Major's footballing son sent off twice in one week

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's son is earning a reputation as one of the hard men of British soccer after being sent off twice this week. James, 18, who plays left-back, has now been dismissed four times this season and could be banned for 35 days under Football Association rules. On Sunday, James was sent off for punching an opponent in an under-18 village league match. Three days later a professional foul when playing for his school earned him another red card. "I couldn't care less if it was Prince Charles, the procedure is exactly the same for everyone," said Maurice Armstrong, an official of Huntingdonshire Football Association. "I must say I can't remember anybody ever being sent off four times in one season before," he told the London Evening Standard Friday. John Major is member of parliament for Huntingdon.

Former Indonesian first lady sentenced to jail

MEEKER, Colorado (R) — Former Indonesian first lady Dewi Sukarno, who had pleaded guilty to cutting the face of a socialist rival, was sentenced to 60 days in jail and fined \$700. Mrs. Sukarno, 52, was accused of smashing a champagne glass in Victoria Osmena's face on Jan. 2, 1992 during a celebrity-filled dinner party at Aspen Club Lodge. Osmena, 44, is the granddaughter of former Philippines President Sergio Osmeña. "I did not intend to do it. I would like to express my apology and sorrow," Mrs. Sukarno said from the witness stand. Because of the extent of pre-trial publicity, the case had been transferred to this snow-covered ranching town from giddy Aspen, where the attack on Ms. Osmena took place. Mrs. Sukarno, whose husband was Indonesia's first president, pleaded guilty on Dec. 3 to second-degree assault and disorderly conduct. She was scheduled to report to jail Monday.

Japan envisions nuclear power plants on the moon

TOKYO (R) — Energy-poor Japan, forging ahead with an ambitious nuclear power development plan, is eyeing the moon as a possible site for nuclear plants. The Science and Technology Agency, a government ministry, is planning a five-year project this spring to develop a converter that can change energy generated by nuclear power plants on the moon into electricity and then transmit it to earth, news reports said Saturday. The agency unveiled the next-generation energy project, touting it as the answer to future energy needs and a way to reduce dependency on nuclear power generation on earth, the reports said. Japan, which relies on imports for about 84 per cent of its energy resources, is steadily increasing its use of nuclear power.

Monk arrested after sex with corpse

BANGKOK (R) — A Buddhist monk has been stripped of his saffron robes and arrested after he was caught having sex with the corpse of a 40-year-old woman. Thai press reports said the monk, Saman Panichthong, 35, was arrested and being found with the corpse in a temple during the third night of the woman's funeral rites. Police told reporters they charged the monk with damaging the coffin as they could not find a law banning sex with a corpse.

Life at a standstill in Armenian capital

YEREVAN, Armenia (Agencies) — Public transport came to a standstill, telephones stopped working and lights went out in the Armenian capital because of the bombing of a gas pipeline.

The pipeline was blown up before dawn Saturday by "unknown persons" in neighbouring Georgia, the Armenian government said.

The explosion destroyed five pillars supporting the pipeline over a river in Georgia's Martuni district, populated mostly by ethnic Azerbaijanis, the government said.

Some news reports, however, said the explosion was the result of an accident.

The pipeline was the only one that delivered Turkmen gas to besieged Armenia. The republic is fighting with neighbouring Azerbaijan for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous, Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's blockade of rail traffic and fuel deliveries to

Karabakh and some areas of the border separating Armenia and Azerbaijan.

2 Russian troops killed in Georgia

Meanwhile, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze Saturday expressed regret at the killing of two Russian servicemen during an attack on their ammunition depot in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi.

Georgian irregulars raided the depot in the suburbs of Tbilisi Friday, further straining tense relations with Moscow.

The attack came hours before a Moscow delegation arrived for talks on the future of ex-Soviet troops stationed there, now under Russian command.

"I express my deep regret about what has happened," local television quoted Mr. Shevardnadze as saying. "The interests of Georgia demand that this crime be solved."

Meanwhile, sporadic fighting and artillery duels were reported Friday and Saturday in Nagorno-

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NATO's new peacekeeping plans to include combat

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO plans for peacekeeping missions in cooperation with its former Warsaw Pact enemies will include options for combat, effectively extending the alliance's security umbrella beyond its borders for the first time.

NATO officials told Reuters planning was at an early stage but it could not be restricted to the traditional idea of using lightly-armed troops deployed with the consent of all warring parties.

The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), traditionally limited to the defence of member states, agreed last month to take on new missions to try and prevent more Yugoslav-style conflicts in Europe from erupting.

Emma Thompson was voted Best Actress in a drama film for her role in the British Edwardian Melodrama *Howards End*.

Clint Eastwood in his movie *Unforgiven*

Picture Arts and Sciences, which are handed out in March.

Although gaining respect in Hollywood after years of being belittled as meaningless, the Globes are still very much the junior award to the Oscars.

The Globes are voted on by 88 foreign show business writers who make up the membership of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, while the Oscars are chosen by more than 4,000 entertainment industry professionals.

Indochine, France's romantic historical epic starring Catherine Deneuve, won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film.

The movie, with Deneuve as a rubber plantation owner, tells the story of the last quarter century of France's rule in Indochine.

These would have to be approved by NATO governments and the alliance has made clear that it will act only when asked by the United Nations or the Conference on Security and Coopera-

tion in Europe (CSCE).

Officials say the U.N. mission in former Yugoslavia, as well as the mission to protect the Kurds in northern Iraq in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war, had shown peacekeeping could easily involve the use of